

New York, Sept. 2nd, 1839.
Dear Sir, I have just recd. the letter from London. Like the other one which I sent you, it was directed to my
friend, Mr. Putnam, a bookseller of London, with whom he has business. It contains the latest intelligence from your son. Please take care
of this & return it by Dr. Kniesker of Oriskany.
J. Torrey.

Dear Friend.

Your letter of 29th June awaited my arrival at Geneva which event took place upon the glorious anniversary of our National existence, as our orators have it, in plain prose upon the 4th of July. You indulge your humour at the nonchalance of my mention of the places I visited; just as if I had time or room upon a single sheet to express all my admiration and expatiate at large upon every thing I saw. It is a pity indeed you were not with me; you would have enjoyed it vastly, and I all the more. Had you been with me, my storkism might possibly have been overcome, and we have journeyed on to Naples and Pompeii together. But how could Peter-Nosta now have spared you? You have missed something too in not being with me from the date of my last down to the 4th of July, during which time I made a most satisfactory tour. For a portion I followed in your worthy steps; but on the whole I think I have outdone my predecessor. I will give you the skeleton; your memory and imagination will fill up the picture. Eh bien.

1st day. Steam-boat from Zurich to Horgen (a knapsack on my back, containing an extra shirt and pair of stockings, pen & paper, a Keller, Murray's Hand book, and a port folio for collecting plants.) walked to Rug, dined and talked had French with the Kellerin, walked on to Alth, stopped a little; the Landlad told me it would take 4^h hours to reach the summit of the Righi; I told him, I should do it in 2^h; and I did it; - saw the sun set from the Kulm!

2nd Day. Saw the sun rise, very good time, clouded soon after and rained, - cleared again: thus gave me every variety of view. Left at 12. M. and commenced the descent to Neggis to take the Steamboat for Filvelen; ~~stayed~~ stopped by a thunder shower which came down the lake, got under a rock, and heard the thunder reverberate among the mountains! Reached Neggis a little too late for the boat. - took a skiff directly across the lake, crossed the mountain, where there was no path at all, and walked to Stanz in Canton Unterwalden, which I reached at 5 P.M. - A truly Swiss village, quite out of the ordinary route of tourists. Looked about the place - the old church and bone-house, determined to go to Engelberg.

3rd Day. Was off at 5 A.M. walked 13 miles up a valley through the most sublime scenery, and arrived at this retired and most lovely little valley of Engelberg (Angel-mountain) at 10 o'clock. A rustic village and large old Monastery in the bottom of a green basin, the sides of which rise on every side into peaks covered with snow nearly all the year. One of these is the Titlis which in the spring sends its avalanches smack into the village. - I have since seen a good deal of Switzerland, but no valley equal at all to Engelberg. - Left at noon, - up over the shoulder of the Titlis, through the snow, by the rarely frequent attempted pass of the Jock, about 7000 feet high to the valley of

Engstelen (took a guide over the summit merely). Down this long valley - the lower part is called Genthal - to where it comes into the vale of Nassen at Hof, and thence to Meyringen. For the number and beauty of the waterfalls, which come in from the sides, Lauterbrunnen is not to be mentioned in the same day with it. For wildness, and for the Cataracts of the main-stream it is only surpassed by the valley of Hasli from Meyringen to the Grimsel! - accomplished about 39 miles this day, and reached Meyringen in such condition, and my feet so sore that I had no expectations of stirring next day.

4th Day. Woke in the morning at 8 o'clock; so perfectly restored that I was ready to say with honest Sancho "Blessed be the man who first invented sleep!" - Feet a little sore. - Took a guide, a needless piece of folly as I soon found, went up to the falls of Reichenbach; thence to the glacier of Roseg-lain (Did you see this?) thence took it quite easy over the Grand Scheideck and down to Grindelwald, which I reached at 4 or 5 o'clock.

5th Day. Walked up the Lesser Scheideck and to the Hotel Juapfau on the Nengon Alp; in 3 hours. - Stayed 2 hours to see the avalanches, which have stayed longer, but it clouded and covered the mountains, descended to Lauterbrunnen, walked to the lake of Brienz, - sailed across to Brienz in the midst of a hard shower (which prevented me from going to the Grischbach) - thence back to Meyringen at 5 o'clock. This was doing pretty well.

6th Day. Started alone for the Falls at Hardach and the Grimsel, at 5 o'clock. When I got up a good way it began to rain, tho' clear in the valley. - reached the falls at Hardach in 3½ hours. - stayed a long time to see them, Did you go there? It is not you missed the only sublime waterfall in Switzerland: the others are only pretty. This is of a different character. - Walked on to the Hospice of the Grimsel in the midst of a snow-storm, which enhanced the grandeur and desolate wildness of this most remarkable pass. Reached the Hospice at one o'clock, - what with the old snow and the new, a scene of mid-winter, and very cold. Another party came in toward evening. -

7th Day (Sunday) Did not stir out. Snowing and blowing terribly. The other party attempted to reach the Rhone-glacier, but were obliged to come back. It was fortunate they made the attempt for they picked up, and rescued another party who had lost their way, and were in a fair way to have perished. -

8th Day. At 10 o'clock, the storm over, but still so thick clouds that you could not see 50 feet. - left with a native of Vallais, crossed the summit of the pass, commenced the descent: the wind blew away the clouds to give me a good view; saw the Rhone, a petty brook. - descended to Thozostelen, and walked down the Ober Vallais to Brienz on the Simplon; about 44 miles that day according to the ^{guide-book}.

9th Day. - Felt in very poor condition for walking - but walked on to Leuk about 25 miles, and took a chair to Sion. - slept. -

10th Day. Rose at 4 o'clock: feet and legs yet felt awfully; boots worn down tho' that my feet were nearer the ground than I liked. - walked to Martigny by 10 o'clock (24 miles according to the book, but I think it is not so much). breakfasted, took a mule and went up the Col de Balme! - back again, walking most of the way - slept at Martigny till one o'clock in the morning, took diligence by the falls of the Calenche to St. Maurice & Villeneuve at 7 o'clock on the

11th Day. A little too late for the morning boat; kept till afternoon when went on to ~~the~~ in steam boat to Geneva. -

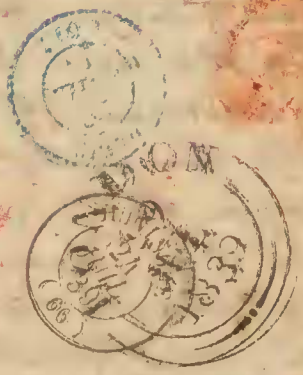
Your note of Introduction (and my own merits) secured me a favorable reception at Madame Wolff's (I duly made your remembrances to the Misses) I have grown quite thick with them, and we made one or two after-dinner excursions together, my mornings being all occupied. I left them on Saturday morning, for Lausanne & Fribourg, where I heard the big organ on Sunday, came on in the night to Geneva and yesterday to this place over the Jura. I wished here to see Prof. Meissner, but found out this morning, some hours after the steam boat had left, that he was absent on a journey. I was a great fool for not finding that out last night, in which case I should have been below Strasburg, and this evening at Mannheim. As it is I can't wait here till Thursday morning for the next boat, and shall leave this evening for Schaffhausen and Lubingen, and thence push on the best way I can for Dresden & Leipzig. Do not lose a moment of time. Do not be surprised if I drop in upon you about the 4th or 5th of September. I would like to sail for home the latter part of that month. In early winter we will hope to give you an entire volume of Flora, and see what you can do with her. I have blocked out, in my mind, scientific labor enough for several years to come, and several works, some of which will be good in a publisher's acceptance of the terms: - others, I dare say, not. As Murray's fame is derived from Byron; so shall you be immortalized and known to all posterity as the publisher of the celebrated Dr. Gray!!

We have not much time to lose and on my arrival at London I shall be unavoidably busy. I hope you will have picked up a great quantity of books for me by that time. My future credit and comfort will very much depend on my bringing home an immense quantity of books for my money. Speaking of money, if you wish any more before please you write me direct to Berlin (I fear I shall have left Leipzig too soon). I have some books to order from Paris, but I wait for a letter to apprise me that a microscope I ordered is finished before I give you the order. Perhaps there will be time after I get to London. - By the way did you send the copy of the Botanical Appendix of Flindas Voyage to the agents of my friend Webb, as I begged you? If you have not done so at once, as my credit is at stake. Bentham wrote me on the 4th July, just as he was on the point of starting for the Pyrenees. He says he has sent down to you some parcels of plants &c. very precious things, directed either to me or Dr. Torrey. I think you had best keep them until I arrive. - So you have moved into larger quarters. But why did you not give me your new number. Tell you do this I must continue to address you at b7.

When I was in England I could scarcely hold up my head as a Yankee shaver - what with our border wars, and domestic quarrels. But now I feel greatly relieved. The recent "Birmingham affair" and several other things, - fortunately(?) give me "wherewith to answer them that are of the contrary part." Let them shut their mouths now! You know my address at Berlin, or you may address Poste restante if you will. - I think I shall be there to about the 25 August. I shall stop a few days at Hamburg. I think I may say that I shall not go up to Rostock. You will perhaps be receiving some letters for me, which now you know my movements you will act according to discretion either in forwarding to me, or retaining.

I have bought scarcely any books since I left Paris. I have had some good ones given me.

Excuse this hurried Epistle, I have precious little time, and I find
 I am growing more and more slovenly every day - Adieu -
 Most truly Yours
 A. Gray



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